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(b) laterally blowing ammonia gas against the falling droplets so that the surfaces of the falling droplets are substantially evenly gelled in a substantially spherical shape,

wherein the ammonia gas is blown from at least one nozzle disposed on a ring interior and, if necessary, at least one nozzle disposed on a ring exterior;

(c) allowing the falling droplets to drop into an aqueous ammonia solution and coagulate to form substantially spherical aluminum beads;

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(d) collecting the aluminum beads from the aqueous ammonia solution.

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20. The process according to claim 19 which further comprises the step of drying the aluminum<sup>oxide</sup> beads.

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21. The process according to claim 20, wherein the aluminum<sup>oxide</sup> beads are dried at a temperature of 20 - 300°C for 1 to 24 hours.

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22. The process according to claim 19 which further comprises the step of calcining the aluminum<sup>oxide</sup> beads.

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23. The process according to claim 22 wherein the aluminum<sup>oxide</sup> beads are calcined for 2-12 hours at 500 to 700°C.